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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Bardelmeier, et al.

Serial No. : 10/080,921

Filed : February 22, 2002

For : PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR THE PARTIAL  
THERMOCHEMICAL VACUUM TREATMENT OF  
METALLIC WORKPIECES

Art Unit : To be assigned

Examiner : To be assigned

October 29, 2002

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademark  
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the  
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Eileen Sheffield

Signature

*Eileen Sheffield* 10/31/02

Date

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any

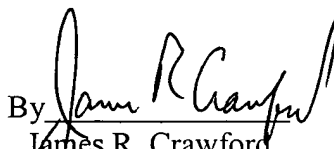
patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-ALD-231.1-US. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted

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